



**Name: Morales, Michael Angelo**

**CDC# C68801**

**Sex: M**

Alias:	None
Race:	Hispanic
Date Received:	06/30/1983
DOB:	10/17/1959
Education:	N/A
Location:	San Quentin State Prison
Married:	None

Sentence:			
County of Trial:	Ventura	Sentence Date:	06/14/1983
County of Residence:		County of Offense:	San Joaquin
Offense Date:	01/08/1981	Court Action:	Affirmed
Court Date:	04/06/1989	Case #:	CR17960

Victim:  
Terri Lynn Winchell, 17 (female)

Co-Defendant:  
Ricky Ortega

Summary:  
During early 1980, Ricky Ortega, 19, and Randy Blythe, 17, were homosexual lovers. Blythe met Terri Lynn Winchell, 17, in 1980 and became her heterosexual lover. Winchell did not know about the homosexual relationship between Blythe and Ortega, but Ortega knew about the relationship between Blythe and Winchell. Ortega became upset about the relationship.

Ortega and Blythe had a stormy relationship characterized by Ortega's threatening reactions to Blythe's attempts to end it. He was also openly hostile to Winchell. He was overheard threatening to kill himself or Blythe.

In late 1980, Ortega told Glenda Chavez that he was angry at Winchell for accusing him of being a homosexual and for her calling him "gay." Ortega and his cousin, Michael Angelo Morales, 21, plotted to murder her as "pay back" for her remarks.

In the weeks before the murder, Ortega set up a ruse to trick Winchell into believing that he wanted to make amends and become her friend. In the meantime, Morales "practiced" how he was going to strangle Winchell and on the day of the murder told his girlfriend, Racquel Cardenas, how he was going to do Ortega a favor and strangle and "hurt" someone.

On January 8, 1981, Ortega called Morales and told him he was driving Winchell to Morales' apartment. Ortega lured Winchell into accompanying him and Morales in Ortega's car to a remote area near Lodi, California. There, Morales attacked Winchell from behind and tried to strangle her with his belt. Winchell struggled and the belt broke in two. Morales then took out a hammer and repeatedly hit her in the head with it. She screamed for Ortega to help and tried to fight off the attack, ripping her own hair out of her scalp in the struggle. Morales beat Winchell into unconsciousness, crushing her skull in several places and leaving 23 identifiable wounds in her skull.

Morales took Winchell from the car and told Ortega to leave and return later. Ortega left. Morales dragged Winchell face-down across the road and into a vineyard. Morales completed an act of sexual intercourse with her unconscious body. He started to leave, but went back and stabbed her four times in the chest to assure her death. Winchell died from both the head and chest wounds. Her body was left in the vineyard naked from the waist down with her sweater and bra pulled up over her breasts.

Within two days, Morales was arrested at his residence. The police found Morales' broken belt with Winchell's blood on it hidden under a bedroom mattress. The police found three knives and the hammer hidden in the refrigerator vegetable crisper. The hammer had traces of Winchell's blood on it. The police also found blood-stained floor mats from Ortega's car in the trash. Winchell's purse and credit card were also in the house. Ortega's blood-spattered car was impounded. Morales had used \$11 from Winchell's purse to buy beer, wine, and cigarettes on the night of the murder.